

accompanied by a new Eussian Ambassador, had arrived in New York. A public meeting- for their reception was held in Carnegie Hall on the evening of July 6, 1917. Eoosevelt was present as the chief speaker. For several days previous there had been race riots in progress in East St. Louis, Illinois. The town was a large manufacturing center and there were several thousand laborers, white and black, employed in the mills. Several thousand white laborers went on strike and to take their places additional blacks were brought in from the South. The strikers assaulted these and started riots which included attacks upon all black laborers, burning their quarters and killing and wounding many of them, including their wives and children. The local authorities had not exerted themselves effectively to quell the disturbance. Referring to the riots Eoosevelt said :

"Before we speak of justice for others it behooves us to do justice within our own household. Within the week there has been an appalling outbreak of savagery in a race riot in East St. Louis, a race riot for which, as far as we can see, there was no real provocation, and which, whether there was provocation or not, was waged with such an access of appalling brutality as to leave a stain on the American name.

"Now, friends, the longer I live the more I grow to abhor rhetoric that isn't based on facts, words that are not translated into deeds. And when we applaud the birth of democracy in another people, the spirit which

insists on  
treating each man on the basis of his right as  
a man, refusing  
ing to deny the humblest the rights that are  
Ms, when we  
present such a greeting to the representatives  
of a foreign  
nation, it behooves us to express our deep  
condemnation of  
acts that give the lie to our words within our  
own country."

Samuel Gompers, President of the American  
Federation  
of Labor, followed Eoosevelt, saying he  
approved the "gen-  
eral sentiments" of Eoosevelt, and adding:  
"But I want  
to explain a feature of the East St. Louis riots  
with which